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Book Reviews

Lucrèce: De La Nature. Texte établi et traduit par ALFRED ERNOUT. Tome I (Livres I, II, III), Tome II (Livres IV, V, VI). Collection des Universités de France publiée sous le patronage de l'Association Guillaume Budé. Paris: Société d'édition, "Les Belles Lettres," 1920. 20 francs.

This is one of the first publications of the recently organized Association Guillaume Budé (so-called from the famous philologist of the French renaissance), and as a volume of a new series of the Greek and Latin classics is of special interest.

The Association Guillaume Budé plans to issue: (1) All the principal works of classical antiquity ("Collection des Universités de France"), about three hundred in number. Each of these will be published in three different forms: a volume of text with translation on the opposite page, a volume giving the text only, and a volume of translation. (2) Commentaries on all the important authors. (3) A series of texts supplementing the "Collection des Universités de France," and comprising works of technical content or of secondary importance. (4) Volumes of literary and historical studies ("Collection d'études anciennes"), one of which has already appeared: *Histoire de la littérature latine Chrétienne*, by Pierre De Labriolle.

The project is well under way, for, besides Lucretius, editions of Plato, Theophrastus, Aeschylus, and Persius have already appeared.

Foreigners are eligible for admission to the Association (10 francs a year), and for book-buyers there are obvious advantages in membership. For not only does each member receive the publications of the Association up to the value of his annual subscription but he gets a discount of 25 per cent on such other publications of the Association as he cares to buy.

The edition of Lucretius before us is an example of the first type of publications referred to above. There is an introduction of twenty-seven pages and then come the French translation and the Latin text on opposite pages. The critical apparatus is in the form of footnotes, which are of approximately the same compass as those in the Oxford texts.

In the Introduction, Ernout touches lightly upon the date of the poet's birth and upon the various other problems connected with the memorandum of Jerome. He discusses also Cicero's remark in the letter to his brother Quintus (ii. 9 [11]. 3). He does not believe that the poem was composed *per intervalla insaniae*, and he sees no analogy to the case of Pascal: "Les Pensées sont un brouillon, sublime mais informe, et le De Natura est un tout

achevé." He is of the opinion that there is in the tradition handed down by Jerome a distortion similar to that suffered by the story of Democritus in passing through the hands of the church fathers. According to Cicero, Laberius, and Aulus Gellius, Democritus destroyed his sight in order that his meditations might not be disturbed by external distractions. But the fathers of the church give a different turn to the tradition, as we see in Tertullian *Apolog.* 46: "Democritus excaecando semetipsum, quod mulieres sine concupiscentia aspicere non posset et doleret, incontinentiam emendatione profitetur." The ardor, manifest to any reader of Lucretius, in Ernout's opinion becomes madness in the reports of those who resented bitterly the poet's elaborate argument against the immortality of the soul. As regards the poet's family our editor assigns him to the patrician branch of the gens Lucretia (the Tricipitini). He has some interesting remarks (p. xii) on Lucretius' unlucky choice of a patron, if Memmius to whom the poem is dedicated is really C. Memmius, praetor in 58 and governor of Bithynia in 57.

While Ernout frequently cites the minor manuscripts and the conjectures of critics, his text is solidly based on the two ninth-century Leyden codices (Oblongus and Quadratus). He distrusts Lachmann's collations and is wholly out of sympathy with Ussani's numerous transpositions. The translation is lucid and serviceable.

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Flosculi Graeci. Vitam et mores antiquitates redolentes quos optimis auctoribus decerpit ARTURUS BLACKBURNE POYNTON. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1920. Fcap, 8vo.

This little book of extracts is full of interest, and, so far as I know, nothing of just this kind has ever been undertaken before. The editor has divided the contents into six main divisions. He has not affixed titles to these divisions and it is not easy to give a comprehensive one in every instance, but they might be headed something like the following: "A. Prose Style"; "B. Pertaining to War"; "C. Parliamentary Government"; "D. Political and Social Science"; "E. Opinions on Philosophical and Other Subjects"; "F. A Master-piece of Ancient Literary Criticism." While the selections do not always follow one another in perfect harmony, there is a sort of natural sequence in the way we pass through military matters into parliamentary government, political society, and social life, to the "ideal man" and various trades and professions connected with public life.

The extracts are drawn not only from such well-known authors as Xenophon, Thucydides, Aristophanes, Demosthenes, Plato, Aristotle, etc., but also from the less-known authors Dionysius, Andocides, Gorgias, Hippocrates, and Longinus, and from Luke and Paul. He has drawn freely on Thucydides, Plato, and Aristotle, somewhat less on the others. Among the selections